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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lt. Gov. Crouch, Indiana Broadband Office designate the Town of Ladoga as a Broadband Ready Community

INDIANAPOLIS (Nov. 13, 2021) – Today, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana Broadband Office announced that the Town of Ladoga is now designated as an official Broadband Ready Community. The Broadband Ready Communities Program was created as a tool to encourage broadband development throughout Indiana.

The Broadband Ready Community certification sends a signal to the telecommunication industry that a community has taken steps to reduce barriers to broadband infrastructure investment.

"We are excited to announce another Hoosier community that has officially been certified Broadband Ready. Congratulations to the Town of Ladoga to remain competitive and progressive in broadband development and investment," Crouch said. "We look forward to continuing our state's outreach in ensuring residents and businesses have reliable, high-speed internet across all corners of the state."

The certification was approved by the Indiana Broadband Office following the Ladoga Town Council's adoption of a Broadband Ready Community ordinance.

"By becoming a Broadband Ready Community, Ladoga demonstrates that we are ready to be a launching point for broadband internet in the area," said Mike Hubble, Sr., Ladoga Town Council President. "We stand ready to accommodate and help boost internet infrastructure capabilities throughout our community."

According to Earnie Holtrey, Project Manager at the Indiana Broadband Office, 2021 has been a successful year for Broadband Ready Communities across Indiana.

"This is a monumental day for the Town of Ladoga," Holtrey said. "Congratulations to the Ladoga Town Council on your initiative to lead your community forward. We recognize your collaboration, work and momentum, and anticipate your continued success."

Via 2020 legislation, the Broadband Ready Community Program was transitioned from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (<u>IEDC</u>) to the Office of Community and Rural Affairs (<u>OCRA</u>). <u>IBO</u> began the day-to-day management of the Broadband Ready Community Program on July 1, 2020. For more information, visit <u>in.gov/indianabroadband</u>.

Under the leadership of <u>Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch</u>, who also serves as the Secretary of Rural Development, the Indiana Broadband Office (IBO) mission is to assist residents in need of affordable and reliable broadband connectivity. This mission of reaching Hoosiers where they live, work and play is accomplished by communicating with stakeholders, providing resources to a diverse audience, and leveraging established relationships with elected officials, associations, and providers.

For more information, visit <u>in.gov/broadband</u>.